



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Special Regulations – East Lake *Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge*

The Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 550 national wildlife refuges across the United States and its territories. The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands for the conservation of wildlife for the benefit of the American people. Properly managed hunts can benefit wildlife populations while providing recreational opportunities for hunters. The number of hunters desired for each hunt period may be increased or decreased to address significant changes in population levels.

### Special Hunt Regulations

The regulations below supplement the General regulations that govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting is also in accordance with applicable state regulations and state seasons.

You may access the Refuge during your permitted scouting and hunt period one hour before legal hunt time and one hour after legal hunt time; however, you may not hunt outside of the legal hunt hours.

Your licenses, permits, hunting equipment, effects and vehicles or other conveyances are subject to inspection by Federal, State and local law enforcement officers.

We restrict hunt participants to include the permitted hunter and one non-hunting supervisor chaperone for youth hunters. All participants are required to wear hunter orange according to Texas State regulations (400 square inches that is visible on the chest, back and head).

Hunters must field-dress all harvested big game in the field.

We allow you to use bicycles on designated routes of travel. You may use non-motorized dollies or carts off improved roads or trails to haul carcasses to a parking area.

We allow the use of rattling horns.

There are no antler restrictions on bucks.

Your scouting period begins the Monday before your hunt up to the day of your hunt. We allow free-standing blinds or tripods. They may be set up during this period and must be taken down by the end of your hunt date. All stands must be marked or tagged with your name, contact number and hunt date during which it will be used.

### Prohibited Acts

You may not use nails, wires, screws or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree to which a metal object has been driven to support yourself.

You may not use or possess dogs, horses or mules on the Refuge during your applicable hunt.

You may not discharge weapons for any purpose other than to take or attempt to take an animal listed in your permit during your hunt.

You may not kill, wound, take or possess an animal listed in your permit while intentionally or knowingly failing to make a reasonable effort to retrieve or keep the edible portions of the animal and include it in your bag limit.

You may not use flagging or any other type of marker.

You may not cut or trim vegetation or brush to create shooting lanes or natural vegetative blinds.

You may not use big game decoys. We prohibit the use or possession of alcohol while on the Refuge (including parking lots). You may not be under the influence of alcohol or consume an alcoholic beverage while engaged in hunting activities, or publicly consume or display an alcoholic beverage.

We prohibit the use of motorized vehicles.

We prohibit overnight camping, fires, littering and dumping, to include the Refuge parking areas and county roads.

We prohibit the possession, use or hunting over bait on the Refuge. Bait is anything that can be ingested.

Launching, landing, or disturbing of wildlife by aircraft (drones) on the Refuge is prohibited.

We reserve the right to revoke or deny any permit for up to five years for the following conditions: lack of public safety to a degree that may endanger oneself or other persons or property, multiple regulation violations, aggressive, abusive or intimidating demeanor to any employee of the United States or of any local or State government engaged in official business, or with any private person engaged in the pursuit of a permitted activity on the Refuge.

### Hunting License and Permits

We require hunters to pay a fee to obtain a Refuge hunt permit and to possess and carry such permit at all times during your designated hunt period. If issued a Refuge vehicle pass, hunters must display such pass on the windshield or dashboard while participating in the designated scouting and/or hunt.

While on the Refuge hunt, all hunters must possess a valid state hunting license, proof of hunter's education certification (if not exempt) and picture identification.

We require hunters to be at least 9 years old. All youth hunters, ages 9 through 16, regardless of completing hunter education may participate in the hunts, but must be accompanied by a person who is at least 18, who is licensed to hunt in Texas, who has passed hunter education or is exempt (born before Sept. 2, 1971) and must be within normal voice control.

### Species and Bag Limits

Archery, Shotgun/Muzzleloader and youth hunts legal species and bag limit include: White-tailed deer (two animal limit – one buck deer only) and nilgai antelope and feral hogs (no limit).

Exotic hunt legal species and bag limits include: Nilgai Antelope and Feral hog only (no limit).

### Firearms and Ammunition

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

We permit only the permitted hunter to hunt or discharge the applicable archery, shotgun, muzzleloader or rifle.

We permit the use of archery and crossbows outlined in the TPWD regulations for Archery hunts.

We permit the use of shotguns (20 gauge or larger with slug shot only) and muzzleloaders (.40 caliber or larger) for Shotgun/Muzzleloader hunts.

We permit the use of legal centerfire shoulder-fired rifles for Youth and Exotic only hunts. All hunting firearms must be unloaded and cased while in the vehicle.

### General Information and What to expect on your hunt

There is no hunter check-in or check-out station for the permitted hunt.

Selected hunters are on their own and are recommended to become familiar with the Refuge Special Regulations and the Refuge Property prior to hunting.

Hunters, hunting the Teniente tract may park along County Roads 10, 20, 30 and GI Road; however, the path of traffic and access to Federal and private property must not be blocked. Inappropriately parked vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.

Hunters, hunting the East Lake tract have only the designated parking area to park. Further access is by foot or bicycle.

Hunts are primitive and assistance from Refuge personnel to retrieve or track game will not be available; therefore make harvest plans accordingly.

Be prepared to quarter, process and pack your game in the field and take to your vehicle.

There are no restroom or game processing facilities on the Refuge.

You may set up your hunting method during your designated scouting period.

All deer must be tagged immediately upon kill with a tag from the hunting license of the person who killed the deer.

### For Additional Information Contact

South Texas Refuge Complex  
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
3325 Green Jay Road  
Alamo, TX 78516  
(956) 784-7500  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/Lower\\_Rio\\_Grande\\_Valley/visit/hunting](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Lower_Rio_Grande_Valley/visit/hunting)

### Accidents or Injury

For emergencies or to report violations, contact Dispatch and Refuge Law Enforcement Officers at (956) 784-7520.

### Equal Opportunity Access

Disabled hunters with mobility impairments are encouraged to contact our office in advance for more information on access to the hunts.

## SIGN AND CARRY

I have read and understand the special regulations associated with hunting on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. These special regulations must be signed and on your person at all times while on your designated scouting and permitted hunt.

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Printed Name

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Hunter's Signature

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Date



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Vehicle Pass – East Lake

### *Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge*

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Please record full names and permit numbers of each permitted hunter and chaperone (for youths) that are associated with the vehicle. This vehicle pass should be displayed face-up on the vehicle dashboard and must be used during the scouting period and permitted hunt date.

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	Hunters Name	Permit Number
2.	<hr/>	<hr/>
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	Hunters Name	Permit Number
5.	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Chaperone Name	Permit Number
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	Chaperone Name	Permit Number





